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## 4th International Conference on Sustainable Future for Human Security, Sustain 2013

### Editorial



The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on a Sustainable Future for Human Security (SUSTAIN 2013) was held at Kyoto University (Japan) on 19-21 October, 2013. The conference was organized by Sustain Society and the Indonesian Students Associations of Kyoto, with the support of the Organization for the Promotion of International Relations (OPIR) Kyoto University, Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (RISH), Global Center for Education and Research on Human Security Engineering (HSE), Global COE Program for Sustainability / Survivability Science for a Resilient Society Adaptable to Extreme Weather Conditions (GCOE-ARS), and Inter-Graduate School Program for Sustainable Development and Survivable Societies (GSS).

The conference originated from the need to provide an inter-disciplinary forum where the most serious problems affecting a sustainable future for human security could be discussed, in recognition of the fact that many future problems cannot be solved by a “siloe” approach. The emphasis on sustainable futures is in response to the general awareness of the need to solve numerous human-related problems resulting from the rapid growth of modern society. The topic of sustainable futures for human security needs to be discussed in an integrated way, in accordance with the principles of sustainability, considering energy and materials supply, economics and trade, technology, cities, agriculture, social and environmental aspects.

To continue providing adequate technology to cope with the demands of human quality of life requires intensive research and development with multidisciplinary perspectives. Research and development towards achieving future human security should embrace sustainability perspectives, to avoid negatively impacting the environment and necessitating or exacerbating inefficient use of natural reserves, increasing emissions and hazardous wastes and jeopardizing human health and society.

The conference covered a wide range of issues with the aim of highlighting potential issues and paths towards a sustainable future. It attracted a high level of attendance from countries of the global North and South, with a wide geographical coverage. Overall, 160 participants were involved, with 120 presentations over the course of the conference. The quality of papers received was a testament to the reputation that the conference has been building over the past 3 years.

Papers presented at SUSTAIN 2013 were divided into five thematic areas: (1) Energy and Environment (EnE); (2) Sustainable Forestry and Agriculture (FA); (3) Sustainable Built Environment in Tropical Hemisphere Countries (BE); (4) River Basin and Disaster Management (RnD); (5) Social Science and Economics (SE). Under these broad areas, a wide-ranging series of presentations was given, which elaborated on current research across Asia and the world. Being held in Kyoto, a city of great cultural heritage, the participants also took part in a tour of some of the main sights and experiences that link modern and ancient Japan.

The two programmed days of the conference each commenced with keynote presentations which, like the conference itself, were wide-ranging. In the first session on day one, Dr. Ir. Edi Effendi Tedjakusuma, delivered an address on issues of a sustainable future for human security in the context of Indonesia. Dr. Puppim de Oliveira, Assistant Director and Senior Research Fellow at the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), then discussed the future sustainability of cities in Asian nations. In the last keynote, Professor Satoshi Fujii, a Japanese cabinet adviser on Disaster Prevention and Reduction, introduced Japanese policy towards a more resilient country.

More than 230 participants attended the conference from 23 countries in Asia, North America and Europe. Around 161 papers were presented in the two days of conference. Only selected papers will be published in the *Procedia Environmental Science* and a special issue of the *International Journal for Sustainable Futures for Human Security (J-SUSTAIN)*.

The organizers appreciate the support and assistance of the co-operating organizations, the participants, presenters and staff. The next SUSTAIN conference is highly anticipated by all the attendees of SUSTAIN 2013 and the committee expect to further build on the success of this year's event.

#### **Chief Editor**

N. Agya Utama  
Environmental Engineering, Surya University  
Summarecon Serpong, Tangerang 15810, Indonesia

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